

February 2002

Doing What it Takes to be WasteWise

rom reusing porcelain insulators to
establishing electronic customer billing,
the electric power industry has a wealth
of waste reduction opportunities. Below is a
sampling of the commitments and achievements
of WasteWise partners in this industry.
These types of activities also can help your
company reduce waste and cut costs.
For more information or to enroll your
company in WasteWise, call 800 EPAWISE
(372-9473) or visit our home page at
[www.epa.gov/wastewise].

Waste Prevention

he cornerstone of WasteWise, waste prevention means using less material to do the same job, cutting waste <u>before</u> recycling. Regardless of industry sector, everyone can take advantage of general waste prevention goals, such as double-sided copying, packaging reduction, or switching to reusable supplies. Some WasteWise partners in electric power generation have gone beyond the basics and implemented activities that target industry-specific waste materials. The following is a sampling of these goals:

- Donate porcelain insulators to local artists.
- Use fiberglass utility poles.
- ❖ Increase reuse of telephone poles.
- Donate old equipment, such as meters, transformers, and generators to developing countries.
- ❖ Initiate luminary maintenance program to extend the useful life of lamps.
- * Reduce packaging on new gas meters.
- Donate technical magazines and unused photochemicals to local schools.
- ***** Establish electronic customer billing.

Recycling Collection

asteWise partners commit to initiating, expanding, or improving company programs to collect recyclables. In some cases, companies add new materials to an existing program, or they increase effectiveness through activities such as employee education or community outreach. WasteWise partners in the utility industry have set these goals:

- Send porcelain insulators and bushings to be made into road aggregate and outdoor tiling.
- Establish program to recycle electric and gas meters.
- Recycle meter glass.
- * Recycle plastic gas pipe and industrial plastics.



- Convert utility poles and cross ties to lumber and fence materials.
- Grind porcelain insulators, bushings, and cutouts for use as ice melt and traction material.
- Grind wooden utility poles, cable reels, and cross ties for mulch or composting.

Buying or Manufacturing Recycled Products

wastewise partners commit to increasing the overall recycled content in the products they purchase.

WasteWise partners that are manufacturers can either increase the percentage of postconsumer content in the products they make or increase the recycled content in the

WasteWise partners in the utility industry include:

Mail customer bills and payments in envelopes with recycled content.

products they purchase.

Buy-recycled activities of

Purchase recycled-content shop towels.

WasteWise Partners in the Utility Industry

Alliant Energy American Electric Power Service Corp. Cinergy Corp. Colonial Pipeline Company Commonwealth Edison Company Conectiv Energy Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Constellation Energy Group Detroit Edison Company Dominion Virginia Power Edison Electric Institute El Paso Natural Gas Company Florida Power & Light Florida Power Corp. **GPU Energy** GPU Nuclear Corporation Great River Energy Illinois Power Company Intraline, Inc. Long Island Lighting Company National Pole Recycling Nevada Power Company Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Nita Industries Inc. Northeast Utilities

Northern Indiana Public Service Company Northern States Power Company Pacific Gas and Electric Company PECO Energy Pennsylvania Power & Light Company **PEPCO** PEPCO - Benning Generating Station PEPCO - Thomas Edison Public Service Company of New Mexico Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) Puget Sound Energy Sierra Pacific Power Company Southern California Edison T.E.S. Filer Station Taiwan Power Company The Southern Company UGI Utilities, Inc. -Electric Division **USWAG** Virginia Power – **Y**orktown Western Resources, Inc. www.OkSolar.com

As of February 1, 2002

Sample Partner Achievements

- ❖ Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed) initiated an electronic billing system for 134,000 interested customers, eliminating thousands of paper invoices. The company also conserved paper by promoting the use of e-mail for communication and distribution of plans, procedures and related documents. It also contracted with a local vendor to refurbish scrap computer equipment for reuse and for use in a community computer technician training program. For the fifth year straight, Con Ed participated in America Recycles Day, attracting more than 280 kids to a recycling fair at the company's Learning Center.
- ❖ Pepco redesigned its cable splicing kits to reduce disposal of unused insulating compound, flushing oil, and oil packed tape. The new kits kept nearly 2,000 pounds of these materials out of the landfill and saved the company approximately \$1,200.
- ❖ In 2000, **Detroit Edison Company** conducted internet familiarization classes to encourage the use of the electronic medium and conserve paper. The company also expanded use of a daily electronic newsletter and continued to replace single-sided copiers with double-sided copiers. Detroit Edison also continued with its computer recovery program: donating 367 refurbished computers to educational and charitable organizations, selling 61 computers through a partnership with Goodwill, and recycling 21,561 pounds of circuit boards and 11,031 pounds of plastic housings.